

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Paula Freund, Press Secretary  
Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis  
[paula.freund@indy.gov](mailto:paula.freund@indy.gov) C: (317) 464-7112  
[www.indy.gov](http://www.indy.gov) - [Newsletter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Flickr](#)

## **HARVARD RECOGNIZES INDIANAPOLIS' CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES**

*CITY'S NEXT STAGE – "RECONNECTING TO OUR WATERWAYS" – KICKS OFF OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup> AS PART OF LILLY'S GLOBAL DAY OF SERVICE*

INDIANAPOLIS – Today the City of Indianapolis was recognized for its innovative and transformative Clean Water Initiative by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Indianapolis' Clean Water Initiative is one of 111 government programs nationwide [recognized with a Bright Idea Award by the Ash Center](#) as part of its annual Innovations in American Government Awards program. Programs were evaluated and selected by a team of policy experts from academic and public sectors.

Indianapolis' [Clean Water Initiative](#) is comprised of several groundbreaking programs and undertakings, including:

- The innovative engineering solutions the City deployed to [renegotiate the \\$3.5 billion Environmental Protection Agency Consent Decree](#);
- the [transfer of the City's water and wastewater utilities](#) to Citizens Water; and
- the [RebuildIndy program](#).

As a result of Mayor Greg Ballard's leadership, Indianapolis residents will benefit from more than \$740 million in cost savings and a significantly reduced debt load. These initiatives also are reducing flooding, bringing cleaner waterways 10 years sooner than originally agreed to under the original consent decree, and revitalizing streets, sidewalks, parks and bridges. Mayor Ballard earlier this year [testified on Capitol Hill](#) on the City's innovative approach to cleaner water.

"Word is getting out that we have established Indianapolis as the clean water leader by using a collaborative, innovative, sustainable and cost-effective approach," said Mayor Ballard.

The City's clean water emphasis set the stage for the [Reconnecting to Our Waterways](#) program focused on one of Indianapolis' most underutilized economic development assets – its waterways. The first Reconnecting Our Waterways projects begin October 11 as part of Eli Lilly's Global Day of Service.

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